

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 /050 W
-----171339Z 080129 /47

P R 171212Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3138
INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1594

E.O. 11652: GDS
SUBJ: PRESENCE OF WESTERN PRESS IN ETHIOPIA

1. DAVID OTTAWAY, WASHPOST CORRESPONDENT RESIDENT IN ADDIS, WHO GENERALLY WELL INFORMED, TOLD EMBOFFS MARCH 16THAT FROM HIS SOURCES HE HAS STRONG REASON BELIEVE EPMG IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING EXPELLING RESIDENT WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS. HE INQUIRED WHETHER EMBASSY WOULD BE WILLING WEIGH IN TO TRY AND PREVENT SUCH A MOVE. HE COULD NOT SAY WHEN MOVE MIGHT BE CARRIED OUT, BUT STRESSED THAT IF ANY ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN, TIME IS NOW, WHILE HE STILL HERE AND NOT AFTER DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN. AS HE UNDERSTANDS IT MOVE IS BEING PUSHED BY INFLUENTIAL MARXIST INNER CORE OF PROVISIONAL OFFICE FOR MASS ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS (POMOA). OTHER RESIDENT WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS ARE RUETERS AND AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE.

2. WE HAVE NO CORROBORATING EVIDENCE THAT ANY SUCH MOVE IS AFOOT, ALTHOUGH AS DEPT AWARE, WESTERN PRESS DOES COME IN FOR CRITICISM FROM TIME TO TIME. NONE-THELESS, IN WAKE OF RECENT TAKEOVER OFRADIO VOICE OF GOSPEL, WE DO NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A MOVE AS BEING IN TUNE WITH GROWING STRIDENCY OF REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC. ACCORDINGLY, IF DEPT AGREES, I AM PREPARED TO RAISE MATTER WITH MOFA AND PROBABLY MININFO, PREFERABLY ON DEPT INSTRUCTIONS. IF I DO SO, IT
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SHOULD PROBABLY BE DONE QUICKLY, AND I WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE ANY POINTS DEPT WISHED ME TO MAKE ON DESIRABILITY OF MAINTAINING WESTERN PRESS PRESENCE HERE.

3. COMMENT: CURIOUSLY, ETHIOPIAN HERALD, MARCH 17, CARRIES EXCERPTS OF A FAVORABLE OTTAWAY ARTICLE THAT APPEARED IN WASHPOST FEB 27 CONCERNING ETHIOPIAN

ECONOMY, UNDER HEADLINE "HOSTILE PRESS BOWS DOWN TO
REALITY--ETHIOPIAN ECONOMY FUNCTIONS WELL."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS01594
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770091-1061
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3084553
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: PRESENCE OF WESTERN PRESS IN ETHIOPIA
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